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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st

1943



WITH THE COMPLIMENTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
HIGH STREET,
ESHER.

Urban District of Esher

ANNUAL REPORT of the Health and Sanitary Conditions for the Year 1943

JAMES FANNING, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

REGINALD F. WHEELER, M.R.San.I.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

COUNCILLOR FINCH (<i>Chairman</i>).			
COUNCILLOR	ARNOLD	COUNCILLOR	SPEED.
"	EDWARDS.	"	STEVENS.
"	GIBBONS.	"	TODD.
"	LOWE.	"	WALTERS.
"	MARRIN.	"	WHEATCROFT.
"	PIKE.	"	WILSON.
"	SIMPSON.		

Ex-Officio Members :

Councillor L. FRANKS, J.P. (*Chairman of the Council*).

Councillor E. F. EDWARDS (*Vice-Chairman of the Council*).

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Personnel.

Medical Officer of Health :

*J. FANNING, M.D. B.S. (London) D.P.H

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

*REGINALD F. WHEELER, M.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E.,
M.S.I.A. Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute
as Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and
other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

*JOHN C. ARMSTRONG, M.S.I.A., Cert. R. San. I., Certifi-
cates of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary
Inspector and Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

*JOHN W. HOBSON, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Certificates of
the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector,
Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and in Sanitary
Science.

Clerks :

MISS M. E. WEDDERBURN.

C. F. PACKHAM

(Serving with H.M. Forces as from 27/9/41).

MRS. AKERS (Clerk dealing with Civil Defence Casualty
Services).

Mortuary Keeper and Disinfector :

J. DOLLEY.

Clerk and Solicitor of the Council :

FREDERICK EDWARDS.

Public Analyst.

ED. HINKS, F.I.C.

*Contribution of salary made from the Exchequer.

Urban District of Esher.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

ESHER.

June, 1944.

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year 1943, which has been prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 10/44, dated 15th February, 1944.

In spite of entering the fifth year of war the health of the district remains satisfactory on the whole, with the exception of a slight rise in the death rate and a more considerable rise in the incidence of tuberculosis.

Infantile and maternal mortality rates remain very satisfactory.

With the exception of scarlet fever and measles the common infectious diseases were not unduly prevalent during the year, and there was no evidence of disease due to malnutrition.

I should like to express my appreciation of the work of the staff of the department and also to offer my thanks to those members of the Civil Defence service who have voluntarily assisted in Public Health work during the year.

I have to record with much regret that Mr. J. M. Bell, Junior clerk in the department, was killed while on active service.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. FANNING, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	14,847
Registrar General's estimate of resident population ...	44,960
Number of inhabited houses—end of 1943—according to rate books	12,975
Rateable Value	£634,955
Product of a penny rate 1943/44	£2,472

Extracts from Vital Statistics :—

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births	804	435	369
Legitimate		407	348
Illegitimate		28	21
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—17.88.			

	Total.	M.	F.
Still Births	24	15	9
Legitimate		15	8
Illegitimate		—	1
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births			28.98

	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	512	263	249
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—11.38.			

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List)—

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other puerperal causes	1
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	1.20

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	31.09
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	27.81
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	81.63

BIRTHS

During the year 804 live births were registered, this being 53 more than last year's total. The rate per 1,000 population was 17.88 compared with an average of 16.5 for England and Wales.

Of the total number 49 or 6% were illegitimate.

DEATHS

During the year 512 deaths were registered, being 44 more than in 1942. The death rate per 1,000 population was 11.38 compared with the average of 12.1 for England and Wales.

This rate is an increase on the rate of the previous year and is accounted for very largely by an increase of the number of deaths in elderly people.

Heart disease and cancer were the most prominent separate causes of death.

The infantile mortality rate was 31.09 per 1,000 live births and compares with 49 for the average of England and Wales.

This may be regarded as a very satisfactory rate.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—	1
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	1	1	2
5. Diphtheria	—	1	1
6. Tuberculosis—respiratory	12	4	16
7. Other Tuberculosis	5	3	8
8. Syphilitic diseases	—	1	1
9. Influenza	6	12	18
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio- encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute inf. encephalitis	—	—	—
13. Cancer (of buccal cavity; and oesophagus (m) uterus (f)) ...	10	6	16
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	9	5	14
15. Cancer of breast	—	17	17
16. Cancer of all other sites	28	18	46
17. Diabetes	1	2	3
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	19	28	47
19. Heart disease	73	61	134
20. Other circulatory disease	14	17	31
21. Bronchitis	15	10	25
22. Pneumonia	10	9	19
23. Other respiratory diseases	9	2	11
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	3	3	6
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	2	2	4
26. Appendicitis	2	1	3
27. Other digestive diseases	2	5	7
28. Nephritis	5	4	9
29. Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis...	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	1	1
31. Premature birth	5	6	11
32. Congenital debility... ..	3	5	8
33. Suicide	2	2	4
34. Road traffic accidents	6	3	9
35. Other violent causes	4	6	10
36. All other causes	16	14	30
Totals	263	249	512

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case rates for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1943. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C. Bs. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000—50,000 1931 Census	London Adm. County	England and Wales	126 C. Bs. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000—50,000 1931 Census	London Adm. County	
*Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—									
Live Births	16.5 †	18.6	19.4	15.8	Deaths under 1 year of age	49 †	58	58	
Still Births	0.51 †	0.63	0.61	0.45					
Deaths:—									
All Causes	12.1 †	14.2	12.7	15.0	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age.	5.3	7.9	10.4	
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)				
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(a) Notifications:—				
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	Puerperal Fever	11.68	15.11	3.05	
Diphtheria	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.02					Puerperal Pyrexia
Influenza	0.37	0.36	0.37	0.27					
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	Puerperal Fever	11.68	15.11	15.23†	
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02					
Notifications:—									
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	Puerperal Pyrexia	11.68	15.11	3.05	
Paratyphoid	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01					
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.09					
Scarlet Fever	3.01	3.29	3.54	3.80	Puerperal Pyrexia	11.68	15.11	15.23†	
Whooping Cough	2.54	2.82	2.25	2.68					
Diphtheria	0.88	1.12	0.77	0.74					
Erysipelas	0.31	0.35	0.27	0.42	Puerperal Pyrexia	11.68	15.11	15.23†	
Small-pox	—	—	—	—					
Measles	9.88	9.23	9.77	9.17					
Pneumonia	1.34	1.62	1.16	1.27	Abortion: Mortality per million women aged 15-45—England and Wales:—				
					No. 140 with Sepsis	No. 141 without Sepsis			
					25	8			
					† Including Puerperal Fever				

* A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths. † Per 1,000 related births.
 † These rates are those published in the Quarterly Return.

SUMMARY OF BIRTH, INFANTILE MORTALITY AND DEATH RATES FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

Year.		Births.		Infantile Mortality.		Deaths.
1939	...	15.78	...	45.91	...	10.52
1940	...	14.64	...	43.87	...	11.73
1941	...	14.30	...	41.73	...	11.61
1942	...	17.23	...	16.56	...	10.27
1943	...	17.88	...	31.09	...	11.38

The number of bodies received into the public mortuary was as follows :—

For post-mortem examination and inquest ...	...	26
For post-mortem examination only ...	...	10
War Operations ...	...	Nil

RAINFALL.

Table showing rainfall in the district during 1943, taken at the Sewage Farm, Esher :—

January	...	...	...	...	4.44 ins.
February	...	...	...	...	1.41 ..
March	...	...	...	...	0.30 ..
April	...	...	...	...	0.70 ..
May	...	...	...	...	1.87 ..
June	...	...	...	...	1.13 ..
July	...	...	...	...	1.86 ..
August	...	...	...	...	1.30 ..
September	...	...	...	...	1.67 ..
October	...	...	...	...	2.56 ..
November	...	...	...	...	1.18 ..
December	...	...	...	...	1.40 ..
					19.82 ins.

Compared with the figures for the previous year this is a decrease of 2.06 inches.

Average yearly rainfall (for past 5 years 27.23).

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1943.

DISEASES	Under			AGE GROUPS.										Over	
	Totals	1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65		
Scarlet Fever ...	3½2	—	6	19	22	40	173	52	9	10	9	1	1		
Pneumonia ...	15	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	1	3	3	4	—		
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—		
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1		
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—		
Dysentery ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Anterior Polio-Myelitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1		
Measles ...	220	4	9	13	19	20	119	21	8	5	—	2	—		
Whooping Cough ...	92	8	7	11	8	17	35	5	—	—	1	—	—		
Diphtheria ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	46	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	3	10	11	12	5		
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12	—	1	—	—	1	3	2	2	2	1	—	—		
TOTALS ...	741	12	25	45	51	79	333	82	24	33	27	22	8		

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DISEASES

WARDS.

DISEASES	Thames		Long		WARDS.				Stoke d'		East		West	
	Totals	Ditton	Ditton	Ditton	Esher	Claygate	Cobham	Abernon	Molesey	Molesey	Molesey	Molesey	Molesey	Molesey
Scarlet Fever ...	342	25	6	—	7	44	32	—	—	58	—	—	170	—
Pneumonia ...	15	2	—	—	4	1	4	—	—	2	—	2	2	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	4	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dysentery ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Anterior Polio-Myelitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	220	26	7	7	15	7	152	2	2	11	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	92	8	4	4	9	—	44	3	3	5	—	19	—	—
Diphtheria ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	46	13	2	2	7	5	1	2	2	5	—	11	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12	1	3	3	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
TOTALS	741	78	22	22	43	57	243	7	82	209	—	—	—	—

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.—The incidence of Scarlet Fever began to rise in the last quarter of 1942 and the disease was epidemic during the whole of 1943. 342 cases were notified, a rate of 7.60 per 1,000 population.

The type of illness was almost universally mild, and no deaths occurred.

303 cases were treated in hospital, and 40 at home. At one period the strain on isolation hospital beds was so great that routine admissions of scarlet fever had to be refused.

There is in point of fact no need for the majority of scarlet fever cases to seek hospital accommodation, and, where the home conditions are satisfactory, there is no relative increase in the number of secondary cases following isolation at home. An added advantage is that the danger of cross infections and complications arising from crowded hospital wards is avoided.

Difficulty is sometimes experienced in obtaining medical attention at home, however, as doctors who undertake midwifery work are quite properly reluctant to attend scarlet fever cases at the same time.

The number of "infecting cases" (i.e. a case giving rise to another case within 28 days of discharge from hospital or release from isolation) was very high for hospital treated cases. Based on hospital treated cases the rate was 9.7 per cent, and for home treated cases the rate was 2.5 per cent.

Diphtheria.—Only one case of diphtheria was notified during the year, a reduction of two on the low record of the previous year. The rate was 0.2 per 1,000 population. The patient was a woman of 48 who unfortunately did not recover.

The progress of the immunisation scheme was very satisfactory and at the end of the year it was estimated that 68.1 per cent of pre-school children and 82.7 per cent, of school children had been immunised.

Owing to the fact that children below the age of one year are not usually immunised the maximum possible figure for pre-school children is 80 per cent.

The low incidence of diphtheria recorded during recent years is undoubtedly due to the high percentage of children immunised, but with an apparent diminution of danger there is likely to be increasing difficulty in persuading parents of the necessity for immunisation. Every opportunity should be taken of warning them that any slackening off will probably mean a return to the high diphtheria figures of previous years.

The following number of children were immunised during the year:—

Number of children treated by Medical Officer of Health (pre-school 531, school 579)	...	...	...	...	...	1,110
Number of children treated by private doctors under Council's scheme (pre-school 131, school 79)	...	...	...	...	...	210
Number of children failing to complete treatment (pre- school 32, school 19)	...	...	...	...	...	51
TOTAL number completing treatment	...	...	...	...	...	1,320

Measles.—The total number of measles cases was rather less than during the previous war years, but taking the district as a whole the incidence of the disease has not yet returned to its pre-war biennial beat. A definite biennial periodicity is still noticeable in wards, with the exception of the Molesey districts, which have not had a severe visitation of measles since 1940.

During 1943 a total of 220 cases was notified, confined mainly to the Cobham Ward in the second quarter of the year.

Serum for prophylactic use was requested by doctors and supplied in 10 cases. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough.—There was a slight rise in the incidence of whooping cough. A total of 92 cases was notified, with two deaths in children of 2 years and 1½ years respectively.

Cerebro-spinal Fever.—Four cases were notified during the year of which one was fatal,

Anterior Polio-myelitis.—One case of infantile paralysis occurred at a girls' boarding and day school. No further spread took place. An exhaustive enquiry failed to disclose any missed or abortive cases.

Scabies. There was no diminution in the prevalence of scabies. In spite of the publicity it has received many cases are still overlooked until they have had many opportunities of infecting others.

In most cases treatment has been carried out in the patient's home by a Civil Defence nurse, and in other cases a First Aid Post has been used.

There is often difficulty in convincing patients that the infection is a family one, and that it is essential that all members of the household should be treated whether they appear to be suffering or not.

During 1943, 681 persons from 151 families received treatment. Of these 404 persons showed definite lesions, the remainder being contacts in the same family.

Verminous conditions.—A number of families infested with head lice were referred for treatment to the department by private doctors, health visitors and others.

These have been treated with the preparation known as "Lethane 384 special" by Civil Defence staff.

20 individual cases were so dealt with during the year.

No case of infestation by the body louse came under notice.

Food Poisoning.—On June 21st a telephone message was received from a doctor to the effect that a family he was attending was suffering from symptoms suspicious of food poisoning. On enquiries being made at the home it was found that three persons out of four had suffered from an attack of severe vomiting and diarrhoea.

Although the attacks had not all taken place at the same time they followed a few hours after a meal which included scrambled egg made from dried egg powder.

None of the other food taken came under suspicion.

The person who was not affected had not eaten any of the egg.

Enquiries were then begun to ascertain whether any other cases of a similar nature were occurring in the district, and it was found that in five other families there were persons who had suffered from a sharp attack of diarrhoea and vomiting following the consumption of reconstituted dried eggs.

In all 15 persons were known to have developed symptoms.

Enquiries from the local distributor showed that the cartons supplied to the affected households were part of a batch of 1,440 all of which had been distributed between May 31st and June 18th.

In view of the fact that most of this batch had been consumed without harm only a small proportion could have been responsible for the outbreak.

In most cases the symptoms consisted of abdominal pains, vomiting, diarrhoea, often accompanied by severe collapse, coming on two to four hours after a meal of dried egg. Although in some cases the symptoms were very severe indeed recovery was rapid in all after a few hours.

A number of specimens of faeces from patients gave negative results on bacteriological examination and agglutination tests on blood serum also showed nothing significant.

Specimens of the suspected egg powder were also submitted for examination, some of which gave a high colony count and *Bact. meleagridis* was isolated from several specimens.

In view of the nature of the symptoms however, it is unlikely that the outbreak was caused by a living salmonella organism, and experiments carried out on kittens and human volunteers confirmed the suspicion that a pre-formed toxin was present.

Bacteriological and experimental investigations were kindly carried out by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Oxford.

During the year seven additional notifications of suspected food poisoning were received, but proof that the symptoms were caused by food was absent in each case.

Tuberculosis.—

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1943.

Age. Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	2	1	1	1	1	—	1	—
5	1	1	3	3	—	—	—	1
15	1	7	2	—	—	1	—	1
25	5	1	—	1	2	2	—	—
35	10	—	—	1	4	—	—	—
45	4	2	—	—	5	—	—	—
55	5	1	—	—	3	1	—	—
65 upwards	3	2	—	—	2	1	—	—
	31	15	6	6	17	5	1	2

Six cases—pulmonary—came to notice after death, two of these were posthumous notifications, two from local registrar and two transferable deaths.

There has been a marked increase in the incidence of new cases and in the death rate from tuberculosis, a position which cannot be regarded as satisfactory.

The following table shows how the disease has increased during the war years and indicates that the increase has fallen more heavily on males than on females. Among males the age group most affected has been 35—45 and among females 15—25.

TUBERCULOSIS NEW CASES.	1938.				1939.				1940		
	M.	F.	Total	...	M.	F.	Total	...	M.	F.	Total
Respiratory	10	11	22	...	24	12	36	...	16	15	31
Non-Respiratory	1	1	2	...	2	3	5	...	1	3	4
DEATHS.											
Respiratory	4	8	12	...	9	3	12	...	9	16	25
Non-Respiratory	1	0	1	...	2	0	2	...	0	1	1
TUBERCULOSIS NEW CASES.	1941.				1942.				1943.		
	M.	F.	Total	...	M.	F.	Total	...	M.	F.	Total
Respiratory	22	14	36	...	23	12	35	...	31	15	46
Non-Respiratory	3	2	5	...	—	8	8	...	6	6	12
DEATHS.											
Respiratory	8	13	21	...	11	7	18	...	17	5	22
Non-Respiratory	3	2	5	...	1	3	4	...	1	2	3

The increase in tuberculosis is probably not due to any single cause, but to an accumulation of war time stresses such as overwork, overcrowding, defective ventilation and diet restrictions.

The most urgent needs at the moment are improved housing for tuberculous cases and a shortening of the waiting period before admission to sanatoria.

At the end of the year the following number of cases remained on the tuberculosis register:—

				Pulmonary. non-Pulmonary.		
Males	...	...	...	96	...	13
Females	...	...	...	54	...	24
				—		—
				150		37
				—		—

CASES REMOVED TO TOLWORTH ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	303
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	4
Measles	...	...	...	...	11
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	8
					—
					328
					—

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE REMOVED TO HOSPITALS OTHER THAN TOLWORTH.

Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	5
Puerperal pyrexia	...	...	...	...	4
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	6
					—
					16
					—

NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED YEARLY FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS.

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Scarlet Fever	69	64	47	22	114	342
Diphtheria	34	11	9	10	3	1
Erysipelas	15	6	2	6	2	2
Pneumonia	32	20	36	24	44	15
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	9	6	4	4
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	1	2
Paratyphoid	1	—	—	1	2	—
Typhoid	1	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	5	6	2	2	4
*Measles	—	1	497	399	328	220
*Whooping Cough	—	7	53	400	33	92
Tuberculosis (all forms) .	23	41	35	41	43	58
Ophthalmia neonatorum .	2	—	—	1	—	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	—	1	—	1
Induced Malaria	—	1	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	1	1	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica .	—	—	—	1	—	—

*Notifiable since October, 1939

	Scarlet Fever.	Pneumonia	Cerebro-spinal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Dysentery.	Anterior Polio-myelitis.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Pulmonary tuberculosis	Non-pulmonary tuberculosis.	Totals.
January	35	4	1	—	—	—	—	21	1	—	2	3	67
February	31	2	—	—	—	—	—	16	14	—	2	—	65
March	44	2	—	1	1	—	—	13	17	—	4	1	83
April	31	1	—	—	2	1	—	41	15	—	2	1	94
May	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	63	10	—	2	1	87
June	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	52	3	—	6	1	83
July	29	—	1	—	—	—	—	8	7	—	5	1	51
August	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	9	—	5	1	35
September	22	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	8	—	7	2	43
October	31	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	6	—	5	—	44
November	40	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	44
December	29	4	2	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	5	1	45
Totals	342	15	4	2	4	2	1	220	92	1	46	12	741

CASE RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

						England and Wales	Urban District of Esher
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	0.88	0.02
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	3.01	7.60
Typhoid	...	...	...	...	...	0.01	Nil
Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	...	0.01	Nil
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	0.08	0.08
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	2.54	2.04
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	9.88	4.90
*Puerperal pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	11.68	4.83

*Per 1,000 total births (i.e. live and still births).

Schools.—The number of children attending the elementary schools at the end of 1943 was:

					Boys		Girls		Infants
Claygate Council	...	...	...	...	54	...	68	...	67
Cobham Infants' Council	...	...	...	...	—	...	—	...	104
East Molesey Infants' C.	...	...	...	...	—	...	—	...	108
Hinchley Wood Central C.	...	...	...	...	178	...	166	...	—
Long Ditton Infants' C.	...	...	...	...	—	...	—	...	120
Molesey Central C.	...	...	...	...	241	...	239	...	—
Thames Ditton Junior C.	...	...	...	...	96	...	89	...	93
Thames Ditton C.	...	...	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
West Molesey Infants' C.	...	...	...	...	—	...	—	...	301
Esher C. of E.	...	...	...	...	58	...	141	...	88
Cobham C. of E. Central	...	...	...	...	119	...	89	...	—
Cobham C. of E. Junior	...	...	...	...	122	...	80	...	—
Cobham Downside C. of E.	...	...	...	...	14	...	7	...	18
East Molesey C. of E.	...	...	...	...	132	...	136	...	—
Long Ditton C. of E.	...	...	...	...	71	...	76	...	—
Oxshott C. of E.	...	...	...	...	13	...	15	...	19

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. The Staff of the Public Health Department is set out at the beginning of this report.

The provision of health services in the area remains substantially unaltered from that set out in recent annual reports.

The following table shows the number of pathological examinations during the year under review:—

Disease.					Total Number	
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	Urine	2	
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	Sputa	60	
Pleural fluid	...	...	...		1	
Streptococcal diseases	...	...	...	Swabs	157	
Diphtheria	...	...	...	Swabs	129	
Suspected Food Poisoning	...	...	...	Food	7	
"	"	"	...	Faeces	34	
"	"	"	...	Urine	2	
Typhoid	...	...	...	Faeces	12	
"	...	...	...	Blood	5	
"	...	...	...	Urine	1	
					<hr/>	
					410	
					<hr/>	

A number of samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, details of which will be found on the following page.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. *Water*.—The water provided by the two main water undertakers who supply the district has remained above suspicion.

The regular inspection and sampling of the wells in use in the rural parts of the district were continued and ten samples of water from such sources were submitted for bacteriological examination, five of which were satisfactory.

In the remaining cases the water was of low standard, and the users were given instructions as to the precautions to be adopted when using the water.

One house was provided with a piped supply and the use of the well discontinued.

In another case improvements were made to a well supplying water to four houses.

2. *Drainage and Sewerage*.—During the year a scheme for the extension of the filtration plant at the Molesey Sewage Disposal Works has been completed, and better results are now obtained.

The scheme for the extension of the filtration plant at the Esher Works has not been put in hand owing to the difficulties of labour and material, but it is anticipated that it may shortly be commenced.

The works for the sewerage of Oxshott have been completed to the extent of 2/3rds of the approved scheme, and have now been discontinued until the completion of the War.

Steps are being taken for the periodical flushing of all sewers.

3. *Rivers and Streams*.—Attention has been given to keeping the public water courses free from obstruction and pollution.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply*.—The farms, cowsheds and dairies have been inspected from time to time during the year, details being given in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Samples have been taken for bacteriological examination, for microscopic and biological tests for tuberculosis and the phosphatase test for detecting imperfect pasteurisation of the milk.

The results of the 74 samples taken for the year under review are tabulated below:—

	Total.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	
Samples submitted for bacteriological examination and for the detection of tubercle bacilli.	22	7	15	11 contained B.Coli. 1 contained Tubercle Bacillus. 3 contained both B.Coli & Tubercle Bacillus.
Samples submitted for the detection of tubercle bacilli	23	22	1	1 contained T.B.
Samples submitted for bacteriological examination	2	1	1	1 contained Coli.
Samples submitted for the Phosphatase test ...	27	25	2	(incorrectly pasteurised).
	74	55	19	

It will be seen from the above that five samples of milk contained living tubercle bacillus and these results were passed on to the County Medical Officer of Health and

the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The herds involved were examined and further sampling carried out by the Ministry's Officer, but in no case was a cow actually found to be suffering from tuberculosis.

In one case the complete herd had been sold before the result of group sampling was known but of 4 animals which had contributed to a positive group sample, 3 had been sold for slaughter and the fourth was found to be non-tuberculous.

Any one or more of the 3 animals slaughtered could have been responsible for the delinquent sample.

In another case a tuberculous cow had been seized under the Tuberculosis Order between the dates of the sample being taken and the results being made known and it may be assumed that this animal was the culprit.

In the next case it was found that 10 cows had been sold for slaughter between the dates of original sampling and notification of results, and any one or more of these could have been responsible.

In the fourth case all samples taken by the Ministry's Inspector proved non-tuberculous.

The fifth sample originated from a farm outside this district and no information has been obtained regarding the results of the Ministry's investigation of the case.

It is a serious disadvantage to the tracing of tuberculous animals that the only reliable test which can be applied to milk samples requires 6—8 weeks to carry out, during which time tuberculous milk is possibly being produced and affected animals bought and sold. It is an anomaly of the law that, while severe penalties can be, and often are, enforced on those responsible for the adulteration of milk by added water, no offence is committed by the sale of tuberculous milk. Compulsory pasteurisation is of course the obvious remedy.

(b) *Meat and other Foods*.—Details of the inspection of meat and other foods are given in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

(c) *Adulteration of Foods, etc.*—Full details of administration for the year are given in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES:—

PREMISES.	Inspections	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted	
		Written Notices			
1.	2	3	4		
Factories with mechanical power	27	...	2	...	—
Factories without power	1	...	—	...	—
Totals	28	...	2	...	—

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES:—

PARTICULARS. 1.	Number of Defects.				Number of defects in respect of which Prosec- utions were Insti- tuted.
	Found. 2.	Remedied. 3.	Referred to H.M. Inspector. 4.	Inspector. 5.	
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences— (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Work-shops Transfer of Powers) order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)	—	—	—	—	—

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1943.

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council of Esher.*

June, 1944.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my fourteenth Annual Report upon the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1943.

The report is compiled in accordance with the directions contained in a memorandum from the Ministry of Health and as required by Article XXVII (18) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1935.

It follows the lines of previous reports and, with one or two exceptions, is tabulated.

COMPLAINTS.

During the year under review sixty-one complaints were received and all were investigated.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Number of houses and premises inspected (ordinary) ...	479
Number of houses and premises re-inspected ...	654
Number of miscellaneous visits ...	361
Number of visits to works in progress ...	121
Number of visits to dairies, cowsheds and milkshops ...	154
Number of visits to bakehouses ...	62
Number of visits to factories with mechanical power ...	27
Number of visits to factories without mechanical power ...	1
Number of visits re disinfection ...	300
Number of visits re cases of infectious disease ...	1457
Number of visits re disinfestation ...	124
Visits re Schools ...	42
Visits re Overcrowding (Housing Act) ...	18
Visits re Outworkers premises ...	3
Visits to Caravans ...	5
Visits to A.R.P. Depots, Cleansing Stations, etc. ...	136
Visits re Cleansing of Emergency Water Tanks ...	8
Visits re Food & Drugs Act, 1938 ...	115
Visits to Foodshops ...	346
Visits to Piggeries ...	5
Visits re Water Supply ...	23
Rat Surveys ...	67

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	161
Abatement notices in respect of nuisances,							
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Certificates under The Increase of Rent & Mortgage							
Interest (Restrictions) Acts 1920—1939	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Notice to owner to Provide Water Supply, Public							
Health Act, 1936, Section 138	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT:—

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS.

Repaired, cleansed, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Completely relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Partly relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Additional provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Gullies fixed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

MANHOLES

New provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
New covers fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Altered or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

VENTILATING SHAFTS

Additional provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New Mica Flap Valves fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wire cages fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

SOIL PIPES.

Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Additional provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

WATER CLOSETS

Rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Additional provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
New pans fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Pans cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
New flushing cisterns fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Seats repaired or new provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Water supply reinstated or provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Internal walls renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Lighted or ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

SINKS, BATHS, ETC.

New fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Additional baths, sinks, lavatory basins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

WASTE PIPES, ETC.

New provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

RAINWATER PIPES

Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
New provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

WATER SUPPLY

Water re-instated or laid on	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Service pipes repaired, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Storage cistern cleansed	1
Hot water tank repaired	1

DUST RECEPTACLES

Provided	25
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DAMPNESS

Roofs repaired	47
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	22
Site of houses concreted	3
Ventilation provided under floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
External walls pointed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
External walls rendered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
House walls treated with solution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Sills repaired, weathered or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Damp courses fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

GENERAL REPAIRS.

External walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
House floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Skirting repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ranges and coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Rooms ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Internal walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Animals removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Handrails provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

FOOD.

As mentioned in previous reports the slaughtering of food animals in this District has practically ceased.

Occasional slaughter of animals takes place by permission of the Food Executive Officer of the Esher Food Control Committee.

Food premises have been regularly visited and invariably found satisfactory.

Appended is a list giving details of the class and quantity of food condemned as unfit for human consumption.

In many cases this food was utilized for animal feeding, or in compliance with the directions of the Ministry of Food, the material was returned through the suppliers to the recognised salvage organisation for reprocessing, whilst in a few cases it was found necessary to destroy it.

The following table shows the number of visits to shops for the purpose of food inspection, and the comparison with the number of these visits with the previous four years is interesting.

		1939		1940		1941		1942		1943
To slaughterhouses	...	448	...	37	...	4	...	1	...	Nil
To foodshops	...	154	...	390	...	235	...	243	...	336

The following number of carcases were examined:—

Sheep	...	...	...	...	2
Pigs	...	...	...	...	60

There were eight slaughtermen on the Register at the end of the year.

The following diseased or otherwise unsound meat and food was surrendered and destroyed or dealt with as previously mentioned:—

Fish	...	...	...	...	1539	lbs.	Unsound
Jam	...	...	...	...	41½	„	Unfit
Pork Luncheon Meat (30 tins)					70½	„	Unsound
Pork Sausage Meat (10 tins)					10½	„	„
Sausage	...	...	...	...	74	„	„
Cheese	...	...	...	...	147	„	„
Bacon	...	...	...	...	57	„	„

Potatoes	...	...	...	...	82	..	..
Tea	...	...	...	...	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	..
Flour	...	...	...	...	540	..	..
Chocolate	...	...	...	...	12	..	..
Liver	...	...	...	...	31	..	..
Semolina	...	...	...	...	10	..	..
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	5	..	..
Tinned Meat Roll	...	...	...	...	956	..	..
Assorted tinned food (481 tins)	...	...	...	...	651 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	..
Fish (70 tins)	...	...	...	...			Ur sound
Stewed Steak (5 tins)	...	...	...	...			..
Soup (9 tins)	...	...	...	...			..
Baked beans (28 tins)	...	...	...	...			..
Fruit (64 tins)	...	...	...	...			..
Vegetables (28 tins)	...	...	...	...			..
Milk (57 tins)	...	...	...	...			..
Eggs (536)	...	...	...	...			..
Pies (72)	...	...	...	...			..
Pig Offal	...	...	...	...	36	..	..
Sugar	...	...	...	...	452	..	..
Picked Herring (1 jar)	...	...	...	...			..
Sultanas	...	...	...	...	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	..
Turkey & tongue paste (3 jars)	...	...	...	...			..
Cereals (6 packets)	...	...	...	...			..
Oats	...	...	...	...	106	..	..
Leg of Pork	...	...	...	...	22	..	..

2 tons. 3 cwt. 2 qrs. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Sampling has been continued throughout the year, a total of 131 samples of various foods and drugs having been obtained and submitted to the Council's Public Analyst.

This total represents an average of 2.90 samples per 1,000 of the population based on the Register General's estimated population figure of 44,960 for mid-June..

The following table gives details of the samples obtained:—

					Informal	Formal
Arrowroot	...	...	...	...	1	—
Beer	...	...	...	...	—	3
Butter	...	...	...	...	—	10
Castor Oil	...	...	...	...	1	—
Calamine lotion	...	...	...	...	1	—
Cheese	...	...	...	...	1	—
Confectionery	...	...	...	...	4	—
Essences	...	...	...	...	2	—
Fish Paste	...	...	...	...	3	—
Flour	...	...	...	...	1	—
Ginger (ground)	...	...	...	...	1	—
Glycerine of Thymol	...	...	...	...	1	—
Jam	...	...	...	...	3	—
Lemon curd	...	...	...	...	1	—
Lemon Squash	...	...	...	...	1	—
Malted milk	...	...	...	...	1	—
Marmalade	...	...	...	...	1	—
Meat extract	...	...	...	...	2	—
Mint sauce	...	...	...	...	1	—
Mustard	...	...	...	...	2	1
Milk	...	...	...	...	25	52
Oats	...	...	...	...	1	—
Oatmeal	...	...	...	...	1	—
Pudding mixture	...	...	...	...	2	—
Sauce	...	...	...	...	2	—
Semolina	...	...	...	...	1	—
Soup	...	...	...	...	2	—
Sulphur Tablets	...	...	...	...	1	—
Syrup of Figs	...	...	...	...	1	—
Whiskey	...	...	...	...	—	1
Genuine 125.		Not genuine 6.			Total 131	

The following statement gives details of the samples reported upon adversely by the Public Analyst:—

Sample No Article (F—formal) (I—informal)	Details of Irregularity	Action taken.
45—I Milk	11% deficient in milk fat.	Letter sent to Vendor & explanation received.
74—I Milk	1% deficient in milk solids other than milk fat. No indication of added water.	Vendor gave up retail sale of milk shortly after sample was taken.
95—I Milk	3% deficient in milk fat.	Letter sent to vendor.
123—F Homogenised Milk	2% added water.	Warning letter sent to vendor.
126—I Mustard	Deficient in volatile oil of mustard.	Formal sample later taken.
130—F Mustard	Deficient in volatile oil of mustard.	Warning letter sent to manufacturers.

FACTORIES.

The number of visits paid under the Factories Act, 1937, was 90.

62 to Bakehouses.

28 to other Factory premises.

Nineteen Bakehouses have mechanical power and 11 are without mechanical power. There are no underground bakehouses.

SHOPS ACT, 1912—1935.

No complaints were received as to contravention of the Acts.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

At the end of the year there were fifty two persons on the Register as follows:—

Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	...	...	2
Retail Purveyors and Producers of Milk	...	...	...	...	...	6
Wholesale Producers only	...	...	...	...	...	17
Milkshops in the district	...	...	...	...	...	19
Purveyors retailing milk from outside the district	...	...	...	...	...	8
						52

There were 21 Cowkeepers in the district and the total number of milch cows kept by them is 678.

The 23 dairy farms are situate in the following Wards:—

Claygate	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cobham	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Esher	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Stoke d'Abernon	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Thames Ditton	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
							23

At the end of the year there were eleven farms which were producing "Accredited" Milk, the cowkeepers of which had been placed on the Roll of Accredited

Producers, and two producing "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

The dairies, cowsheds and milkshops have been periodically inspected and the half-yearly limewashing of the cowsheds has been carried out.

The following improvements to cowsheds have been carried out:

- Ridge tiles raised to improve ventilation.
- Fixed skylights made to open.
- Standings for cows made shorter and re-surfaced.
- Floor behind standings re-surfaced.
- Wall behind standings lined with impervious material.
- Dairy constructed in brickwork with lower portion of internal walls lined with glazed tiles, carried up to ceiling height behind cooler.
- Boiler house constructed and boiler and steam steriliser installed.

Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938, have been issued as follows:—

Dealers' Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk ...	7
Dealers' Licences to sell "Pasteurised" Milk ...	11
Licence to "Pasteurise" Milk	1
Supplementary Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	2
Supplementary Licences to sell "Pasteurised" Milk	4
Dealers' Licence to bottle "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	1

SPRAYING PONDS AND DITCHES.

The systematic Spraying of ponds, ditches, water-courses and water holes in the district with Mosquito Oil has been carried out as in previous years.

In concluding this report I express my appreciation of the support received from all members of the Public Health Committee, and to Dr. Fanning, the Medical Officer of Health, I tender my thanks for his keen interest and unfailing kindness.

To the other officials I am indebted for their ever ready co-operation and advice and I thank them.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,
REGINALD F. WHEELER.
Senior Sanitary Inspector,

THE WOLSEY PRESS,
HIGH ST., ESHER.
